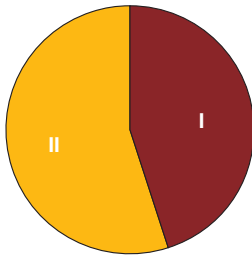


Computerized Pre-Professional Skills Test: Reading (5710)

Test at a Glance

Test Name	Computerized Pre-Professional Skills Test: Reading		
Test Code	5710		
Time	75 minutes		
Number of Questions	46		
Format	Multiple-choice questions based on reading passages and statements		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
	I. Literal Comprehension	21	45%
	II. Critical and Inferential Comprehension	25	55%

About This Test

The Computerized Pre-Professional Skills Test in Reading measures the ability to understand, analyze, and evaluate written texts. Varying in difficulty, the reading material is drawn from a variety of subject areas and real-life situations that educated adults are likely to encounter. Each passage is followed by questions that are based on its content and that relate to a variety of reading skills. All questions can be answered by using information contained within the passage; no question requires outside knowledge of the content.

The test consists of three types of stimulus material: long passages of approximately 200 words with 4 to 7 questions, short passages of approximately 100 words with 2 or 3 questions, and brief statements followed by a single question. Passages are drawn from both print and electronic media, such as newspapers, magazines, journals, nonfiction books, novels, online articles, and visual representations. Questions in each of the three formats may pose tasks of varying difficulty and test any of the skills identified in the Topics Covered section.

This test may contain some questions that will not count toward your score.

Topics Covered

Representative descriptions of topics covered in each category are provided below.

I. Literal Comprehension

Literal comprehension content measures the ability to understand accurately and completely what is directly stated in a written message.

- **Main Ideas**
 - Identify summaries or paraphrases of the main idea or primary purpose of a reading selection
- **Supporting Ideas**
 - Identify summaries or paraphrases of the supporting ideas and specific details in a reading selection
- **Organization**
 - Identify how a reading selection is organized in terms of cause/effect, compare/contrast, problem/solution, etc.
 - Identify key transition words and phrases in a reading selection and how they are used
- **Vocabulary in Context**
 - Identify the meanings of words as they are used in the context of a reading selection

II. Critical and Inferential Comprehension

Critical and inferential comprehension content measures the ability to evaluate a reading selection and its messages.

- **Evaluation**
 - Determine whether evidence strengthens, weakens, or is relevant to the arguments in a reading selection
 - Determine the role that an idea, reference, or piece of information plays in an author's discussion or argument
 - Determine whether information presented in a reading selection is presented as fact or opinion
 - Identify the relationship among ideas presented in a reading selection
- **Inferential Reasoning**
 - Draw inferences and implications from the directly stated content of a reading selection
 - Determine the logical assumptions upon which an argument or conclusion is based
 - Determine the author's attitude toward material discussed in a reading selection
- **Generalization**
 - Recognize or predict ideas or situations that are extensions of or similar to what has been presented in a reading selection
 - Draw conclusions from material presented in a reading selection
 - Apply ideas presented in a reading selection to other situations

Sample Test Questions

The sample questions that follow illustrate the kinds of questions in the test. They are not, however, representative of the entire scope of the test in either content or difficulty. Answers with explanations follow the questions. There are additional sample questions found in the Pre-Professional Skills Test: Reading (0710) Test at a Glance.

Directions: Each statement or passage in this test is followed by a question or questions based on its content. After reading a statement or passage, choose the best answer to each question from among the five choices given. Answer all questions following a statement or passage on the basis of what is *stated* or *implied* in that statement or passage; you are not expected to have any previous knowledge of the topics treated in the statements and passages.

Remember, try to answer every question.

Questions 1–2

- Lyndon Johnson's father once told him that he did not belong in politics unless he could walk into a roomful of people and tell immediately who was for him and who was against him. In fact, even the shrewd Johnson had not quite such occult power, but his liking for this story tells us something useful about him: he set much store by instinct. No wonder, then, that it would be to his instincts—honed in the Texas hill country, sharpened in a life of politics, confirmed in a long and respected congressional career—that he would often turn while in the White House.

- This reliance on instinct enabled Johnson to put on the presidency like a suit of comfortable old clothes. John Kennedy, on the other hand, came to it with a historical, nearly theoretical view of what was required of a strong President—he knew exactly what Woodrow Wilson had said about the office and he had read Corwin and Neustadt. With eager confidence, Kennedy acquired a presidential suit off the rack and put on a little weight to make himself fit it.

1. On the computer screen you will see the following:

Beginning	
<p>Lyndon Johnson's father once told him that he did not belong in politics unless he could walk into a roomful of people and tell immediately who was for him (5) and who was against him. In fact, even the shrewd Johnson had not quite such occult power, but his liking for this story tells us something useful about him: he set much store by instinct. No (10) wonder, then, that it would be to his instincts — honed in the Texas hill country, sharpened in a life of politics, confirmed in a long and respected congressional career — that he would (15) often turn while in the White House.</p> <p>This reliance on instinct enabled Johnson to put on the presidency like a suit of comfortable old clothes. John (20) Kennedy, on the other hand, came to it with a historical, nearly theoretical view of what was required of a strong President — he knew exactly what Woodrow Wilson had said about the</p>	<p>Which of the following words, if substituted for the word "occult" in line 7, would introduce the LEAST change in the meaning of the sentence?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> legendary</p> <p><input type="radio"/> subtle</p> <p><input type="radio"/> invisible</p> <p><input type="radio"/> persuasive</p> <p><input type="radio"/> supernatural</p>

The "occult" power described in the first sentence is clearly not a power that people ordinarily have. It could, therefore, best be described as "supernatural." The last option is the best answer.

Beginning	
<p>Lyndon Johnson's father once told him that he did not belong in politics unless he could walk into a roomful of people and tell immediately who was for him (5) and who was against him. In fact, even the shrewd Johnson had not quite such occult power, but his liking for this story tells us something useful about him: he set much store by instinct. No (10) wonder, then, that it would be to his instincts — honed in the Texas hill country, sharpened in a life of politics, confirmed in a long and respected congressional career — that he would (15) often turn while in the White House.</p> <p>This reliance on instinct enabled Johnson to put on the presidency like a suit of comfortable old clothes. John (20) Kennedy, on the other hand, came to it with a historical, nearly theoretical view of what was required of a strong President — he knew exactly what Woodrow Wilson had said about the</p>	<p>Which of the following words, if substituted for the word "occult" in line 7, would introduce the LEAST change in the meaning of the sentence?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> legendary</p> <p><input type="radio"/> subtle</p> <p><input type="radio"/> invisible</p> <p><input type="radio"/> persuasive</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> supernatural</p>

2. On the computer screen you will see the following:

<p>(10) wonder, then, that it would be to his instincts — honed in the Texas hill country, sharpened in a life of politics, confirmed in a long and respected congressional career — that he would (75) often turn while in the White House.</p> <p>This reliance on instinct enabled Johnson to put on the presidency like a suit of comfortable old clothes. John (20) Kennedy, on the other hand, came to it with a historical, nearly theoretical view of what was required of a strong President — he knew exactly what Woodrow Wilson had said about the (25) office and he had read Corwin and Neustadt. With eager confidence, Kennedy acquired a presidential suit off the rack and put on a little weight to make himself fit it.</p>	<p>End</p> <p>In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with</p> <p><input type="radio"/> explaining an event</p> <p><input type="radio"/> making a comparison</p> <p><input type="radio"/> listing facts</p> <p><input type="radio"/> retelling a story</p> <p><input type="radio"/> refuting an argument</p>
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The passage is about the different approaches of Johnson and Kennedy to the presidency. In explaining how each approached the office and how they differed in this respect, the author is necessarily making a comparison. The correct answer is the second option, “making a comparison.”

<p>(10) wonder, then, that it would be to his instincts — honed in the Texas hill country, sharpened in a life of politics, confirmed in a long and respected congressional career — that he would (75) often turn while in the White House.</p> <p>This reliance on instinct enabled Johnson to put on the presidency like a suit of comfortable old clothes. John (20) Kennedy, on the other hand, came to it with a historical, nearly theoretical view of what was required of a strong President — he knew exactly what Woodrow Wilson had said about the (25) office and he had read Corwin and Neustadt. With eager confidence, Kennedy acquired a presidential suit off the rack and put on a little weight to make himself fit it.</p>	<p>End</p> <p>In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with</p> <p><input type="radio"/> explaining an event</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> making a comparison</p> <p><input type="radio"/> listing facts</p> <p><input type="radio"/> retelling a story</p> <p><input type="radio"/> refuting an argument</p>
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3. On the computer screen you will see the following:

Alice Fletcher, the Margaret Mead of her day, assisted several American Indian nations that were threatened with removal from their land to the Indian Territory. She helped them in petitioning Congress for legal titles to their farms. When no response came from Washington, she went there herself to present their case.

According to the statement above, Alice Fletcher attempted to

- ☐ imitate the studies of Margaret Mead
- ☐ obtain property rights for American Indians
- ☐ protect the integrity of the Indian Territory
- ☐ become a member of the United States Congress
- ☐ persuade Washington to expand the Indian Territory

Click on your choice.

This passage states that Alice Fletcher helped American Indians secure legal title to their land so they would not be forced to abandon it. This idea is expressed in the second choice, "obtain property rights for American Indians," which is, therefore, the correct answer.

Alice Fletcher, the Margaret Mead of her day, assisted several American Indian nations that were threatened with removal from their land to the Indian Territory. She helped them in petitioning Congress for legal titles to their farms. When no response came from Washington, she went there herself to present their case.

According to the statement above, Alice Fletcher attempted to

- ☐ imitate the studies of Margaret Mead
- ☒ obtain property rights for American Indians
- ☐ protect the integrity of the Indian Territory
- ☐ become a member of the United States Congress
- ☐ persuade Washington to expand the Indian Territory

Click on your choice.

Questions 4–5

One promising energy source is sophisticated development of the basic windmills that have ground grain, drained land, and pumped water for centuries. Coupled with advanced storage batteries, very large windmills might satisfy total energy needs for rural areas, towns, and even small cities in locales where strong and prevalent winds can be counted on. Wind power has several advantages. First, no new technology is really required. Second, the energy source is inexhaustible and one hundred percent clean. Third, relatively little capital investment is needed to install or operate windmills.

But wind power has major disadvantages, too. Most obviously, it will work only in limited geographical areas. Less obviously, large-scale deployment of huge windmills might have unforeseen atmospheric and environmental effects. And forests of giant windmills might turn into ugly eyesores. Finally, the amount of electricity that could be generated by wind power would simply be insufficient to meet major nationwide energy needs.

However, a network of sea-based windmills, placed on deep-ocean buoys and driven by the same prevailing winds that once powered sailing vessels all over the world, could provide a substantial fraction of the world's electrical energy—especially if the buoy-based windmills could be linked to land by loss-free superconducting power transmission cables.

4. On the computer screen you will see the following:

Beginning	
<p>One promising energy source is sophisticated development of the basic windmills that have ground grain, drained land, and pumped water for centuries. Coupled with advanced storage batteries, very large windmills might satisfy total energy needs for rural areas, towns, and even small cities in locales where strong and prevalent winds can be counted on. Wind power has several advantages. First, no new technology is really required. Second, the energy source is inexhaustible and one hundred percent clean. Third, relatively little capital investment is needed to install or operate windmills.</p> <p>But wind power has major disadvantages, too. Most obviously, it will work only in limited geographical areas. Less obviously, large-scale deployment of huge windmills might have unforeseen atmospheric and environmental effects. And forests of giant windmills might turn into ugly eyesores. Finally, the amount of electricity that could be generated by wind power would simply be insufficient to meet major nationwide energy needs.</p>	<p>The passage states that sea-based windmills could provide energy effectively if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> they were constructed in shallow water <input type="radio"/> they were located near major urban ports <input type="radio"/> they were placed on stationary platforms <input type="radio"/> the power they generated could be transferred efficiently to storage <input type="radio"/> the power they generated could be stored in advanced high-capacity batteries <p>Click on your choice.</p>

Choice A can be eliminated because the windmills are described as being placed in deep water; choice B can be eliminated because there is no indication that the windmills would have to be near ports. The passage directly contradicts choice C, since “buoys” (line 23) are not stationary platforms. Choice E brings up the batteries that were mentioned in line 4. However, such batteries are not specifically related in the passage to sea-based windmills. The passage does specifically mention highly efficient cables as a critical part of the sea-based system. Therefore, D is the best answer.

Beginning	
<p>One promising energy source is sophisticated development of the basic windmills that have ground grain, drained land, and pumped water for centuries. Coupled with advanced storage batteries, very large windmills might satisfy total energy needs for rural areas, towns, and even small cities in locales where strong and prevalent winds can be counted on. Wind power has several advantages. First, no new technology is really required. Second, the energy source is inexhaustible and one hundred percent clean. Third, relatively little capital investment is needed to install or operate windmills.</p> <p>But wind power has major disadvantages, too. Most obviously, it will work only in limited geographical areas. Less obviously, large-scale deployment of huge windmills might have unforeseen atmospheric and environmental effects. And forests of giant windmills might turn into ugly eyesores. Finally, the amount of electricity that could be generated by wind power would simply be insufficient to meet major nationwide energy needs.</p>	<p>The passage states that sea-based windmills could provide energy effectively if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> they were constructed in shallow water <input type="radio"/> they were located near major urban ports <input type="radio"/> they were placed on stationary platforms <input checked="" type="radio"/> the power they generated could be transferred efficiently to storage <input type="radio"/> the power they generated could be stored in advanced high-capacity batteries <p>Click on your choice.</p>

5. On the computer screen you will see the following:

<p>relatively little capital investment is needed to install or operate windmills.</p> <p>But wind power has major disadvantages, too. Most obviously, it will work only in limited geographical areas. Less obviously, large-scale deployment of huge windmills might have unforeseen atmospheric and environmental effects. And forests of giant windmills might turn into ugly eyesores. Finally, the amount of electricity that could be generated by wind power would simply be insufficient to meet major nationwide energy needs.</p> <p>However, a network of sea-based windmills, placed on deep-ocean buoys and driven by the same prevailing winds that once powered sailing vessels all over the world, could provide a substantial fraction of the world's electrical energy—especially if the buoy-based windmills could be linked to land by loss-free superconducting power transmission cables.</p>	<p>Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A series of interrelated events is arranged chronologically.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A controversial theory is proposed and then persuasively defended.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> An unforeseen problem is described and several examples are provided.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A criticism is summarized, evaluated, and then dismissed.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A problematical issue is discussed and a partial solution suggested.</p> <p>Click on your choice.</p>
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Choice E is the correct answer. “A problematical issue is discussed” summarizes the first two paragraphs, in which both the pros and cons of a complicated situation are examined. They are followed, in the third paragraph, by the suggestion of “a partial solution,” which partially remedies some of the problems of using windmills to generate electricity.

<p>relatively little capital investment is needed to install or operate windmills.</p> <p>But wind power has major disadvantages, too. Most obviously, it will work only in limited geographical areas. Less obviously, large-scale deployment of huge windmills might have unforeseen atmospheric and environmental effects. And forests of giant windmills might turn into ugly eyesores. Finally, the amount of electricity that could be generated by wind power would simply be insufficient to meet major nationwide energy needs.</p> <p>However, a network of sea-based windmills, placed on deep-ocean buoys and driven by the same prevailing winds that once powered sailing vessels all over the world, could provide a substantial fraction of the world's electrical energy—especially if the buoy-based windmills could be linked to land by loss-free superconducting power transmission cables.</p>	<p>Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A series of interrelated events is arranged chronologically.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A controversial theory is proposed and then persuasively defended.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> An unforeseen problem is described and several examples are provided.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A criticism is summarized, evaluated, and then dismissed.</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> A problematical issue is discussed and a partial solution suggested.</p> <p>Click on your choice.</p>
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6. On the computer screen you will see the following:

Beginning

When Michelangelo began painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, he had five painters assisting him in the techniques of fresco, in which he was relatively unskilled. Finding their work inadequate, he dismissed them and resolved to accomplish the whole task by himself. Vasari, his friend and biographer, tells us that Michelangelo worked through four years "with the utmost solicitude, labor, and study."

Creativity such as Michelangelo's is self-nourishing: Vasari states that Michelangelo "became more and more kindled by his fervor in the work." I believe that this interplay of creativity and effort is what constitutes genius—and what made Michelangelo a great artist.

In order to evaluate the validity of the author's claim regarding Michelangelo (lines 8-10), it would be most helpful to know which of the following?

- ☐ How well Vasari knew Michelangelo
- ☐ How Vasari characterized other great painters
- ☐ Whether Vasari's descriptions of Michelangelo are accurate
- ☐ Whether Michelangelo was skilled at fresco painting when he finished the Sistine ceiling
- ☐ Whether Michelangelo created all of his major works without assistants

Click on your choice.

In making the comment about Michelangelo's greatness, the author relies on information Vasari has supplied. If Vasari's claims that Michelangelo worked with great care and was inspired by his work are not correct, the author's claim about Michelangelo may not be valid. It would therefore be useful to know the information represented by choice C. Choice A may appear at first glance to be relevant, but it is not as good a choice as C, since Vasari might have known Michelangelo quite well but not have supplied accurate information in his biography. Choice B is even less satisfactory since we are concerned only with how Vasari described Michelangelo, not how he described other painters. Choice D, while it might confirm statements about Michelangelo's skill, does not help us evaluate the author's claim in the last sentence of the passage. Choice E can be eliminated for similar reasons. C is, therefore, the best answer to this question.

Beginning

When Michelangelo began painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, he had five painters assisting him in the techniques of fresco, in which he was relatively unskilled. Finding their work inadequate, he dismissed them and resolved to accomplish the whole task by himself. Vasari, his friend and biographer, tells us that Michelangelo worked through four years "with the utmost solicitude, labor, and study."

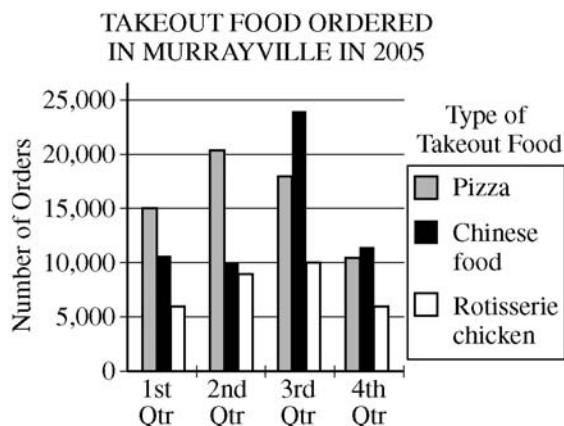
Creativity such as Michelangelo's is self-nourishing: Vasari states that Michelangelo "became more and more kindled by his fervor in the work." I believe that this interplay of creativity and effort is what constitutes genius—and what made Michelangelo a great artist.

In order to evaluate the validity of the author's claim regarding Michelangelo (lines 8-10), it would be most helpful to know which of the following?

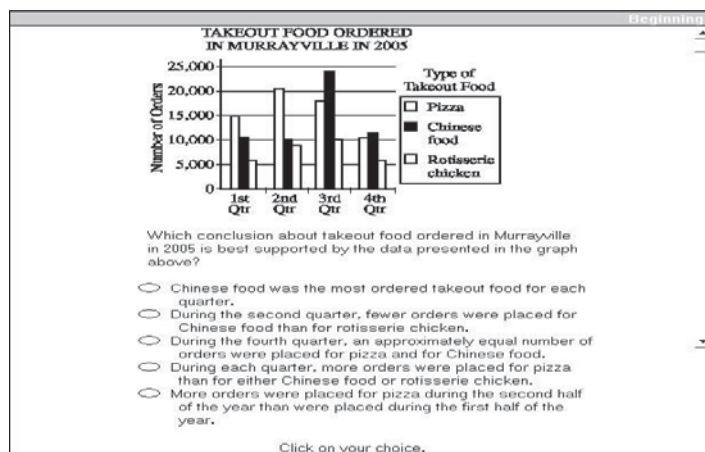
- ☐ How well Vasari knew Michelangelo
- ☐ How Vasari characterized other great painters
- ☒ Whether Vasari's descriptions of Michelangelo are accurate
- ☐ Whether Michelangelo was skilled at fresco painting when he finished the Sistine ceiling
- ☐ Whether Michelangelo created all of his major works without assistants

Click on your choice.

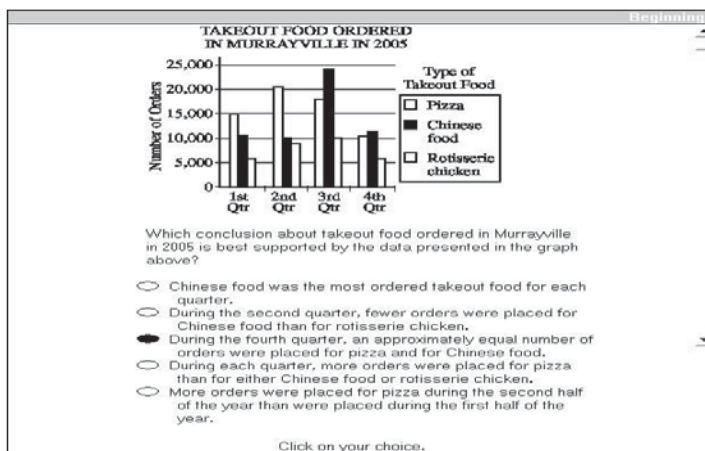
Question 7



On the computer screen you will see the following:



Choice A can be eliminated because there are clearly fewer orders for Chinese food than for pizza in both the first and second quarters. Choice B is incorrect because there were more orders for Chinese food than for rotisserie chicken in the second quarter. Choice D can be eliminated because pizza was clearly not the most ordered food item in the third and fourth quarters. Also, Choice E is incorrect because the combined pizza orders for the first and second quarters are clearly greater than the combined pizza orders for the third and fourth quarters. Choice C is, therefore, the best answer: results for the fourth quarter show that orders for pizza and for Chinese food were about the same, if not identical.





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